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EXAMINER

STEELMAN, MARY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2191

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/829,597	Applicant(s) TANG ET AL.	
	Examiner Mary J. Steelman	Art Unit 2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to RCE, claims and Remarks received 15 September 2005. Per Applicant's request, claims 1-48 are cancelled. New claims 49-66 are added. Claims 49-66 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 49-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are directed to a non-statutory embodiment, a program per se. This may be cured by amending claim 49. A suggested amendment: "A graphical display interface portal computer system..." or "A graphical display interface portal tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 49-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,795,826 B2 to Flinn et al.

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Per claim 49:

A graphical display interface portal, comprising:

Flinn: Fig. 9 and col. 9, line 13, 'display interface 14' (graphical display interface portal)

-a document display area of a user interface display screen, the document display area defining a currently active data object for a user;

Flinn: Col. 9, lines 19-20, "a first object summary 46a is presented to the display interface 14 to represent **a selected object 34** (active data object)." (emphasis added) See FIG. 10, #46c, (document display area of user interface)

-a neighborhood panel presented on the user interface display screen along side with the document display area, such that the neighborhood panel is concurrently illustrated when the currently active data object for the user is present, the neighborhood panel including a list of one or more users and a list of one or more data objects,

Flinn: See Fig. 9 A display interface for a selected object presents objects related (44a) to the selected object (46a). Related objects are presented in the display area. Col. 9, lines 13-32, "The **display interface 14** may express one or more objects 34... a first object summary 46a is presented to the display interface 14 to **represent a selected object 34**... The first object summary 46a further provides **a list of related objects 44a** (neighborhood panel including a list

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of one or more users and a list of one or more data objects). The list of related objects 44a include one or more objects 34 that are deemed **related to the selected object 34**. The related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed... This facilitates access to the object 34 represented by the first object summary 46a, by supplying... a connection to related objects 44a.” Col. 8, lines 16-35, “a client experience manager 28 tracks usage... using a transaction log 18... Individual user access to content or topic objects 34, the number of users accessing an object 34, and other indications of usage may be tracked... This enables users and administrators to view the content network 40 **usage at the level of the individual topic objects 34t and content objects 34c**. The **usage patterns** may also be processed so as to **provide relationships among the objects** in a content network 40 **based on usage, either at the level of individual user**, or groups of users... the information supplied by the client experience manager 28 is provided by the display interface 14...” (emphasis added)

-the list of one or more users being automatically displayed in the neighborhood panel, each user in the list of one or more users being selected for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship between the user and the currently active data object, the relationship being defined by a metric;

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 16-35 (see above) & col. 11, lines 30-35, “For example, suppose the system 100 includes a **class of content objects 34c designated ‘people’ (user object)**. A user may display any or all of the individual ‘people content objects 34c... user may display the ‘people’ content objects 34c for a selected topic object 34t.” (emphasis added) Col. 13, lines 49-53, “the

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system 100 may automatically establish relationships between objects 34 of the content network 40. For example, relationship indicators 42 between objects 34 may automatically be adjusted using statistical pattern matching, neural network technology, or other techniques (relationships defined by a metric).” Col. 9, lines 8-12, “the display interface 14 accesses data structures that store the... content objects 34 requested... The portion of the content network 40 that is accessed may be organized by the display interface to be visually effective (select for display based on a relationship). Col. 9, lines 27-28, “related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed... (related objects are displayed in neighborhood panel)”

-the list of one or more data objects being automatically displayed in the neighborhood panel, each data object in the list of one or more data objects being selected for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship between the data object and the currently active data object, the relationship being defined by a metric;

Flinn: Col. 9, lines 13-18, “display interface 14 (automatically displayed) may express one or more objects 34... The object summaries (co-expressed in neighborhood panel) describe either topic objects 34t or content objects 34c.” (list of data objects displayed in neighborhood panel as ‘related, co-expressed objects’) Col. 8, lines 8-14, “Content objects 34c are encapsulations that contain meta-information 36c and relationships to other objects 34... content objects 34c may include either an embedded pointer to information or the information 38c itself... may include files, text, documents (data objects)...” Col. 13, lines 49-53, “the system 100 may automatically establish relationships between objects 34 of the content network 40. For example, relationship

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indicators 42 between objects 34 may automatically be adjusted using statistical pattern matching, neural network technology, or other techniques (relationships defined by a metric).”

-wherein automatically displaying the list of one or more users and the list of one or more data objects provides a viewable interrelationship and an accessible link to the users and data objects that are most related to the currently active data object, as defined by the metric for the users and the metric for the data objects.

Flinn: Col. 10, lines 30-34, “Relevancy control 54...control the degree to which related objects 44 are co-expressed in the ...display interface 14 (related objects, data objects and user objects displayed) . In one embodiment, the relevancy control 54 is a GUI window, such as depicted in FIG. 12. Interrelationship is shown in the display of related objects. Col. 9, lines 48-50, “a mouse click (accessible link to the user objects and data objects) on one of the co-expresses objects 44 causes an object summary 46 for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed.”

Per claim 50:

-the neighborhood panel further identifies a history list, the history list defining users and data objects that the user of the currently active data object has accessed or communicated with,

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 16-22, “a client experience manager 28 tracks usage...using a transaction log (history list) 18. User interaction with the content network 40...is stored in the transaction log 18.” Col. 8, lines 23-32, “Individual user access to content...objects 34, the number of users

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accessing an object 34, and other indications of usage may be tracked (defining users and data objects that user has accessed)...enables...to view the content network 40 usage at the level of the individual...content objects 34c...based on usage, either at the level of individual user, or groups of users.”

-the history list being automatically updated and displayed on the user interface display screen.

Flinn: See Fig. 4. Col. 8, lines 62-67, “the user layer 10 provides the display interface 14 to facilitate access to the content network 40 by users of the system 100...display interface 14 is a graphical user interface (GUI) that...provides a representation of the content network 40 (content network usage displayed on user interface display screen).” Col. 7, lines 59-60, “content objects 34c may be generated or updated automatically...”

Per claim 51:

-the accessible link to either the users or the data objects is presented as an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link.

Flinn: As an example see Fig. 10, #52. Col. 10, line 13, “a visual association to the content object 34c...”

Per claim 52:

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-the currently active data object is one of a word processing document, an email message, a telephone conversation, or a web page.

Flinn: Col. 4, lines 13-20, “files, text, documents (word processing document), articles, images, audio (telephone conversation), video, multi-media, or signals... Where the content object 34c supplies a pointer to information, the pointer may be a memory address... may be a Uniform Resource Locator (web page)...”

Per claim 53:

-the metric for the users is determined by a number of times the users accessed the currently active data object in the past.

Flinn: Col. 8, line 31, “based on usage (metric, number of times user accessed the currently active data object)... at the level of individual user or groups of users. (number of times the users accessed the currently active data object)”

Per claim 54:

-the metric for the data object is determined by an amount of common content between the currently active data object and the data object.

Flinn: Col. 12, lines 29-45, Relevancy may be adjusted to indicate “most highly related objects are co-expressed (displayed in GUI). Col. 12, lines 53-55, “relationship indicators 42 (metrics

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for data object) may be established using pattern matching techniques, such as where two objects 34 have similar information 38 (an amount of common content)...”

Per claim 55:

-the metric for the data object is determined by a frequency with which the data object is accessed by one or more users.

Flinn: Col. 8, line 31, “based on usage (metric, number of times user accessed the currently active data object)...at the level of individual user (frequency data object is accessed by user) or groups of users.”

Per claim 56:

-the metric for the data object is determined by whether the data object is a copy of the currently active data object.

Flinn: Col. 4, lines 50-65, “Each object 34 may be related to any other object 34, and may be related by a relationship and associated relationship indicator 42...by a degree manifested by the relationship indicators 42...a numerical indication of the relationship between objects 34...1 indicates a subset relationship...relationship indicators 42 are expressed using subjective descriptors that depict the ‘quality’ of the relationship...subjective descriptors ‘high’ (data object is a copy)...may indicate a relationship between two objects 34.”

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Regarding 'the currently active data object', Flinn disclosed (col. 9, lines 13-32), "the display interface 14...may express one or more objects 34...a first object summary is presented to the display interface to represent a selected object 34...The first object summary 46a further provides a list of related objects 44a...The related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed...This facilitates access to the object..." A currently active data object and related objects are presented on a display. A metric is determined regarding the relationship of related objects.

Per claim 57:

-the metric for the data object is determined by whether the currently active data object referenced the data object.

Flinn: Col. 13, lines 65-66, "The usage patterns (whether current active data object referenced the data object) may thus produce 'automatic relationship adjustment' between some objects 34 of the content network." Col. 14, lines 1-3, "if users typically always move from object A to object B, then the relationship between A and B would be high..."

Per claim 58:

-the metric for the user is determined by whether the user has accessed the data object.

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 30-31, "relationships among the objects in a content network 40 based on usage, either at the level of individual user (whether user has accessed the data object)..."

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Per claim 59:

-the metric for the user is determined by whether the user was contacted.

Flinn: Col. 4, lines 8-9, "Content objects 34c are encapsulations that contain meta-information 36c and relationships to other objects 34." Col. 11, line 32, "people content objects 34c" Col. 13, lines 51-53, "relationship indicators 42 between objects 34 may automatically be adjusted using statistical pattern matching, neural network technology, or other techniques." Thus, metrics exist for a user (people content objects) and degree of contact with other content objects.

Per claim 60:

A method of accessing a related item, comprising:

-displaying a currently active data object in a display area;

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 62-67, "FIG. 4, the user layer 10 provides the display interface 14 to facilitate access to the content network 40...the display interface 14 is a graphical user interface (GUI)..." Col. 9, lines 19-20, "a first object summary 46a is presented to the display interface (display area) 14 to represent a selected object 34 (currently active data object)..."

-automatically generating a list of related users and data objects for the currently active data object based on a metric;

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Flinn: Col. 9, lines 23-32, “The first object summary 46a further provides a list of related objects 44a (automatically generating a list of related users (people content objects) and data objects).

The list of related objects 44a include one or more objects 34 that are deemed related (based n a metric – see rejections related to metrics above) to the selected object 34 (currently active data object). The related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed...”

-concurrently displaying the list of related users and data objects in a neighborhood panel, such that the neighborhood panel is displayed along with the currently active data object in the display area;

Flinn: As an example, see FIG. 10. Related users and data objects (44c) in a neighborhood panel (46c) are displayed along with the currently active data object (48c).

-enabling access to at least one of the related users or data objects through the neighborhood panel.

Flinn: Col. 9, lines 48-50, “a mouse click (enabling access) on one of the co-expressed objects 44 (related users or data objects) causes an object summary 46 for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed.” Related objects are linked on the GUI.

Per claim 61:

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- the neighborhood panel further identifies a history list, the history list defining users and data objects that the user of the currently active data object has accessed or communicated with,
- the history list being automatically updated and displayed in the display area.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 50 above.

Per claim 62:

- the currently active data object is one of a word processing document, an email message, a telephone conversation, or a web page.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 52 above.

Per claim 63:

- selecting one or more users for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship, between the user and the currently active data object, defined by the metric.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 49 above.

Per claim 64:

- determining the metric for the users by the number of times the users accessed the currently active data object in the past.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 53 above.

Per claim 65:

- determining the metric for the data object by a frequency with which the data object is

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accessed by one or more users.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 55 above.

Per claim 66:

-determining the metric for the data object by an amount of common content between the currently active data object and the data object.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 54 above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Steelman, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached at (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mary Steelman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Steelman".

12/07/2005